(c) whether any study was conducted by Government on the decreasing popularity of the classical dance forms;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to promote Bharatnatyam in the wake of onslaught of western dance forms through various television channels?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, has taken several measures to promote and preserve the age old traditions of Bharatnatyam. These measures include organizing seminars, festivals. programmes, workshops, granting financial assistance to cultural institutions, enriching the library with books on Bharatnatyam for the benefit of scholars and researchers, conducting training programmes, documentation and special recordings including films on Masters of Bharatnatyam like Balasaraswati, Kittappa Pillai etc. and honouring artists with Akademi Fellowships, Akademi Awards and Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.

(c) and (d) No such study has been conducted.

(e) The steps taken to promote Bharatnayam have already been enumerated at (a) above and these efforts are continuing.

Dilapidated Condition of historical forts and places

†503. SHRI GYAN PRAKSAH PILANIA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the famous historical forts and palaces, havelis and temples of cultural importance of Rajasthan are in a very dilapidated condition;

(b) whether Government is alert to the conservation of existing structure and remains of Indian archaeological importance; and

(c) if so, the details of the efforts to be made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Continuous conservation efforts are made by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in respect of protected monuments of national importance including those in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Conservation of monuments is a continuous process. Every year, conservation by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development is taken up for selected monuments depending upon their needs and availability of resources. Besides, routine maintenance is attended to by ASI for the Centrally protected monuments.

Auditing of account of the three Akademies

504. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much grants were given to Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi during 2005 and 2006 and whether their accounts have been audited;

(b) if so, whether any irregularities have been detected;

(c) whether the objectives envisaged while setting up these organizations have been fulfilled; and

(d) whether any modification is required in the objectives and methodology to extend the reach of Indian cultural heritage in global perspective?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.